

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

DOUGLAS D. SMITH ET AL.

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ELEMENT

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By: 

Timothy L. Harney
Reg. No. 38,174

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs:

Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment in connection with the above newly filed application, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/352,417 filed January 28, 2003.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION begin on page 3 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 5 of this paper.

REMARKS begin on page 9 of this paper.